

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the subject application as amended herein. This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed on April 9, 2004. Claims 1-29 are allowed. Claims 30-32 are rejected. In this Amendment, claim 26 has been amended. Claims 30-32 have been canceled without prejudice.

The Examiner objected to claims 26 and 30-32 under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(a) for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 30-32 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Davis, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,701,449, hereinafter “Davis”). The Examiner further rejected claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis, in view of Bertsch (U.S. Patent No. 5,938,757).

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that Claims 1-29 contain allowable subject matter if rewritten to overcome the objection of 37 C.F.R. 1.75(a). In response, Applicants have amended independent claim 26. Claims 30-32 have been canceled without prejudice. Cancellation of claims 30-32 should not be construed as an admission that the rejections are correct. This canceling is done only to expedite placing this application in condition for allowance. In view of these amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-29 are now in condition for allowance.

Applicants, therefore, respectfully request reconsideration and submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Deposit Account Authorization

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicant hereby requests such extension.

If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Marina Portnova at (408) 720-8300.

Respectfully submitted,

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